

THE VOICE

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 809 S. Commercial Street, Neenah, WI 54956
920-725-3956 E-mail: officemanager@our-saviors.org • www.our-saviors.org

August 2023

“Living in God’s Amazing Grace”

Worship Services

Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am

Virtual Worship

Sunday 9:00 am

You Tube:

[https://www.youtube.com/
@oursaviorslutheran-needah8236](https://www.youtube.com/@oursaviorslutheran-needah8236)

Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/
oursaviorsneenah/](https://www.facebook.com/oursaviorsneenah/)

Office Hours

M-Th 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Fri. 9:00 am – 12 noon

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Minister’s Message

Dear Friends in Christ,

How is your summer going? Your gardens should be producing by now (if you have one). I recently tasted fresh cucumbers off the vine and fresh cut green beans sautéed in olive oil. Yum! The rain in our neck of the woods has been a blessing. Marcella, our 6 year-old, and I went night-crawler picking and got a dozen. I saved \$5. I got out with Leo Patt and my daughter, Annika, to fish perch on the mighty Winnebago. They were biting that day. It was a riot!

I plan to take some vacation in August both at home, camping, caring for my mom, and watching my son Eli row for the Mendota Developmental Rowing Team in Canada. I am looking forward to taking some time off, and I know that you will be in good hands with guest preachers Rev. Mike Dismer, Rev. Karen Jewell and Patty Koplitz, our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry. I have pastoral care lined up during absence thanks to my Neenah ELCA colleagues. Call the office if you need any pastoral care in my absence.

That being said, our climate has been on my mind lately. I missed an opportunity to preach about this in church on July 23. Frankly, I am scared for the future of our Earth and all its creatures. Romans 8 says, “Our earth is groaning in labor pains as it awaits its redemption.” And to all those

*Last Call for
Camping at
High Cliff
August 4-6!*

We would love to have you join us! We currently have two group sites reserved, but would relinquish one if we don't need it. Please, RSVP if you are joining us. These are primitive sites, but campers and tents are allowed. I will plan devotionals for families, activities for kids and worship on Sunday. We will plan to cook and eat supper together each evening. You may participate as you like. This is a time for fun together as well as a chance to practice some Sabbath time.

Please RSVP to Patty Koplitz pkoplitz@our-saviors.org



who are struggling with record heat in our world, my prayers are with you. I often think, “What can I change in my life to help our planet?” My human side doesn’t seem to want to make any changes. I like all our modern conveniences and modes of transportation. Then I think, how can we have faithful conversations about our planet that don’t spiral into useless political partisanship? How can we organize around helping our Earth?

I am thankful, however, that our church is finally getting a new lighting project underway. We are changing out some outdated electrical wiring in the sanctuary and replacing those old high wattage bulbs with LEDs and a new dimmer system. We will be saving the church a lot of energy in the long run. Thank you Church Council for pledging to fund this project. There may be something in the works for people to give to this cause. Please contact Todd Stevenson, our finance chair, if you are interested in helping to defray the cost of this project.

Finally, I am excited for Vacation Bible School (July 31-Aug 3) and our fall programming. We have some changes in our Music Ministry with Jim Miller taking over for Ardy Krueter as Choir and Bell Director, who resigned in June due to some health challenges. Stay tuned for ways you can share your musical gifts. Thank you, Ardy, for your wonderful work with our choir and bells over the years. You are a gift!

Have a blessed rest of your summer! I hope to see you in church or online!

Peace,

Pastor Jon Strasman

Note: There was no Council Meeting in July. Here is the financial numbers through June 2023. Submitted by Finance Manager Dave Zernicke.

<i>thru June</i>	Budgeted	Actual
Income	242,368	236,068
Expenses	235,876	223,950
Balance	6,492	12,118
Noisy Coin		
None		
Memorials		
Mildred Stange		1,040.00



Lutheran World Relief Kits

We've already received many items for the kits... thank you for your generosity! For August we will focus on school purchases and bath towels.

Here's what we need:

Bath towels need to be thin! In humid countries, thick towels retain moisture and stay too damp. Target and Walmart both have towels for about \$3.15 (with tax). Any color is great except white. We need 25 towels.

Large, sturdy combs: We need 40.

Spiral notebooks with 70 or 80 pages, wide or narrow lines are perfect. Each schoolbag needs 4 notebooks.

Pencils (unsharpened). Each student gets 5 pencils.

Crayons: 24 crayons in a box; we need 21 boxes.

Children's blunt scissors: We need 25 scissors.

Look for these items on sale!

You can drop off your donations in the gathering area whenever the church is open. There are three black bins together, and they're labeled. You can also send an email to Ann Pokel if you'd like to have a pick up from your home, or apartment.

If you have any questions, simply contact Ann Pokel at: wapokel@gmail.com

Thank you for your kind donations!



OSLC August News & Events

Food Pantry and Blessing Box Donations

Items can be dropped off at the church office. We are in need of men's hygiene items (water based or essential oil-based body wash, bar soap, deodorant, shampoos, and conditioners). We also need food items that will keep in the summer heat.

Wanted: Worship Service Ushers and Greeters!

It's a wonderful opportunity to meet others and make new friends. Give it a try! We'd love to have you! Please call the church office 920-725-3956 for more information, or sign up at the Welcome Center kiosk in the Gathering Area.

Feeding Ministries of OSLC

Please consider volunteering to serve a meal at Pillars on Thursday, August 10, from 5 –7 pm. If you have been wanting to try it, now is the time! Sign-up Genius [link](#) here for August. You can also sign up at the Welcome Center kiosk.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Vacation Bible School (VBS) is July 31 thru August 3!

[St. Marks Lutheran Church](#) is hosting this year. Registration is open for children ages 3 through 5th grade. VBS will be Monday thru Thursday, 9am-noon. Early drop-off will be available beginning at 7:30am. [Registration form](#) (Forms are also available at the OSLC Welcome Center.)

Pickleball at Washington Park! Every Sunday through summer; times vary. All are welcome. If you don't know how to play, we have paddles and we will teach you. Contact Joan Terry at 920-809-6923.

Retirees and Friends!

Our next event "Fraud & Scams" will be Monday, August 7 at 1 PM at Our Saviors. Come learn from Officer Joe how to protect yourself from the growing number of phone scams! Open to the Public - No reservations needed. Light refreshments will be served.



**August 26 is the
“4th Saturday
S’mores”
in the OSLC
Parking Lot!**

HOLY S’MORES!

We will be having a campfire on the 4th Saturday of each summer month. In August that’s the 26th ~ from 6 pm until whenever! Cornhole, campfires, camp songs and of course... S’mores! Bring a chair!



Caught on OSLC Camera...

A little rain didn't stop over 20 people from staying and enjoying Holy S'mores. The kids played in the gym, some families roasted the marshmallows over the stove and we joined together in fun camp songs! Thanks to everyone who stayed and enjoyed the fellowship!



Saturday, July 22 we had Holy S'mores, despite the rain. Pastor Jon helped to lead camp songs with everyone.



Owen and Brooke Bradley look on while dad, Graham Bradley and Jen Lochner make s'mores.



Leon Stewart enjoys the fruits of the labor!

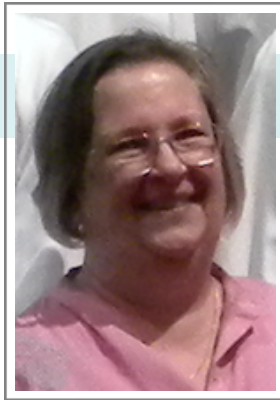
Mission Quilters

We are always in need of fabrics and sheets that you no longer need. Our quilters will cut and piece these donated fabrics into quilts for Lutheran World Services - and for some local charities, too. There isn't a better excuse to clean out that sewing room!

Also, why don't you consider joining us to tie quilts? If you can tie a knot, you can tie a quilt. This month we meet on Thursday, August 3 and August 17 from 1pm-4pm in the OSLC gym.

Come join the fun and fellowship! It feels so good to know that those who have nothing will at least have a handmade quilt.





A Message from Patty Koplitz

Our Children, Youth and Family Director

Patty can be reached at (920) 420-5616

pkoplitz@our-saviors.org

OSLC Sunday School...

Do you love kids? Do you love Jesus? Do you want to learn more about Jesus and the Bible? (That's where I got a lot of my knowledge!) We currently are looking at having three classrooms. I have three teachers, but would love to have three more to offer more flexibility to those committed to teaching our kids. I am also looking for kind folks who are willing to substitute on occasion.

Please, prayerfully consider this opportunity to teach our children about the love of Jesus.



"God's work. Our hands." Sunday

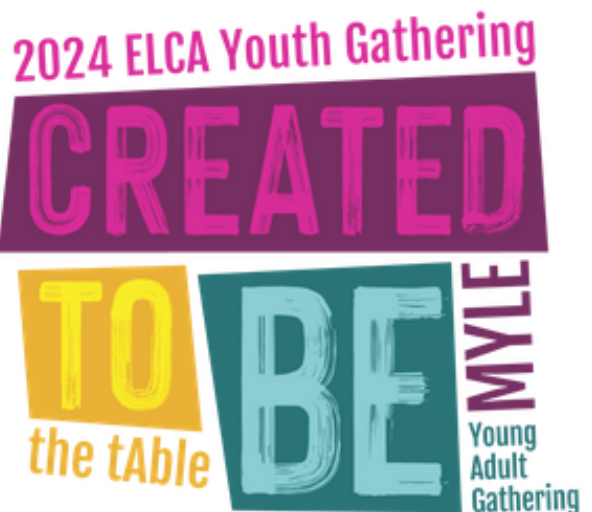


God's Work Our Hands

I am lining projects up for members to help with on Sept. 10th. Is there a project that will benefit our community that you might like to share with other members? Let me know!

ELCA Youth Gathering

I am excited to announce the ELCA Youth Gathering July 16 through the 20th, 2024. The gathering will be in New Orleans. This is an awesome opportunity for any students entering 9th grade through high school. Priority registration starts September 15. We want to start gathering information on who wants to attend so that we can start fundraising! Contact Patty if you are interested!



OSLC August 2023

Did you know? August was named after Augustus Caesar (63 B.C.- A.D. 14), the first Roman emperor (though he never claimed the title) and grandnephew of the previous ruler Julius Caesar (who named July after himself). Birth flowers: Gladiolus, Poppy Birthstone: Peridot

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	VBS @ St. Marks	1 VBS @ St. Marks	2 VBS @ St. Marks 10am - Bible Study	3 VBS @ St. Marks 1pm - Mission Quilting - gym 6pm - AA Meeting Youth Room	4 Family Camp @ High Cliff	5 Family Camp @ High Cliff 5pm Worship - Rev Mike Dismer
6 9am Worship - Rev Mike Dismer 11am Pickleball 1pm AA Hispanic, lounge	7 1pm Retirees & Friends 8pm AA Hispanic, Lounge	8 9:30am Esther Circle, Lounge 11am Staff Meeting 6pm Serve & Reach virtual 7pm Council Meeting, Library	9 10am - Bible Study	10 6pm - AA Meeting Youth Room	11	12 5pm Worship - Rev. Karen Jewell
13 9am Worship - Rev. Karen Jewell 11am Pickleball 1pm AA Hispanic, lounge	14 10am Knitting, Library 10:15am Rebekah Circle 6pm - AA Hispanic, Lounge	15	16 10am - Bible Study	17 1pm - Mission Quilting - gym 6pm - AA Meeting Youth Room	18	19 5pm Worship - Patty Koplitz with Rev. Dewey Wisner presiding
20 5pm Polka Praise - (Lochner Family) Patty Koplitz with Rev. Dewey Wisner presiding 11am Pickleball 1pm AA Hispanic, lounge	21 6pm - AA Hispanic, Lounge	22 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30 Women's Book Club	23 10am - Bible Study	24 6pm - AA Meeting Youth Room	25	26 5pm Worship - Rev Jon Strasman 6pm Holy S'mores
27 9am Worship - Rev. Jon Strasman 11am Pickleball 1pm AA Hispanic, lounge	28 6pm - AA Hispanic, Lounge	29	30 10am - Bible Study	31 6pm - AA Meeting Youth Room	Sunday, Sept. 3 - Worship in the Park! 9:30am (No service at OSLC) <i>The four Neenah ELCA Congregations will be joining together for worship at the bandshell at Riverside Park. There are benches at the park, but feel free to bring your own chairs</i>	